



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT IN RE-BUILDING WILD PACIFIC SALMON

Vancouver – April 1, 2003

Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) is pleased to announce Community Salmon Program awards of \$377,000 that will leverage more than \$2.0 million worth of work on salmon protection and recovery in British Columbia.

"We have experienced a dramatic increase in the number of applications received and expect this trend to continue", said Rich Chapple, Director Salmon Program. The Foundation received 101 applications and a total request of over \$1.4 million for its Spring 2003 funding round. Demand has increased because there has been a significant reduction in federal and provincial government programs available for salmon habitat protection, restoration and stewardship. Volunteer community groups are struggling to maintain the positive work they do on behalf of our Pacific salmon. Zo Ann Morten, Executive Director of the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation said "The diversity of project funding that was applied for, shows the need across the Pacific Region for education, restoration and protection for salmon and the streams they call home. The financial support from benevolent groups like PSF allows the volunteers to carry on their mission to protect our salmon populations for future generations of Canadians".

PSF's Project Selection Committee supports projects that emphasize volunteer involvement in salmon habitat restoration, conservation and education. The Committee also places a high priority upon projects with strong community partnerships and opportunities to leverage additional funds. Of the 64 projects which were awarded funding, examples include:

- \$11,000 – Bowen Island Fish & Wildlife Club for Concrete fish ladder extension
- \$2,988 – Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society – Juvenile coho assessment & wild fry salvage program
- \$3,060 - Greenways Land Trust for Kids Summer Outdoor Discovery Day Camp
- \$13,770 – Parksville Streamkeepers Society – French Creek fish habitat restoration & bank stabilization.
- \$8,950 Kamloops/Thompson School District - School salmonid program
- \$6,000 Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council for enhancement of Kennedy Lake Sockeye

PSF's Community Salmon Program is made possible through year-round fundraising initiatives that include, hosting 10 charity dinners and auctions, arranging corporate partnerships and securing private donations. In addition, through Fisheries and Oceans Canada, PSF receives revenues of \$1 from the sale of each Pacific Salmon Conservation Stamp sold to tidal water anglers in British Columbia. As the leading non-government organization dedicated to salmon recovery and protection, Pacific Salmon Foundation's efforts are widely recognized as making a key difference in many communities throughout BC. Since inception in 1987, PSF has committed over \$4.2 million to support 480 salmon projects. These funds have been matched with money and in-kind contributions from other sources for a total value of more than \$24 million.

In addition to the Community Salmon Program, PSF is the Program Manager of the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund – a \$30 million endowment fund established by an initial contribution from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and championed by Rick Hansen. As Program Manager, PSF invests the income to rebuilding key watersheds in British Columbia. Three priority regions are: Georgia Basin, Thomson Basin and Rivers and Smiths Inlets.

For a full list of approved proposals or for more information on the Foundation, please visit www.pacificsalmon.ca or contact: Rich Chapple, Director Salmon Programs, rchapple@psf.ca or Leigh Martin-Boyd, Salmon Program Officer lmartinboyd@psf.ca Telephone 604-664-7664;